SPEECH BY MARTIN LUTHER KING

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NMAN: (Commentator on WOL) Black ministers from around the country recently met to attack the problems of community leadership. We join Dr. KING as he delivers the closing speech to this group.

KING: We have discussed many issues; we have deliberated; we have had fellowship together, and we have heard many eloquent, profound and passionate presentations. In a real sense, for so many of us, this has been a mountaintop experience. There are those transfiguring moments in life when we do ascend a mountaintop, where we are inspired, where we are lifted and where we feel a sense of eternity. But I want to say to you today that in a few hours we will be returning to the valley. The valley calls us. We will be returning to valleys filled with men and women who know the ache and anguish of poverty. We're going to be returning to valleys filled with thousands and thousands of young people who lost faith in America. We go back to a valley filled with black people who are in moments of despair because of their circumstances and ever again they unconsciously find themselves crying out with PAUL (LAWRENCE DUNBAR) (ph) a crust of bread and a corner to sleep in, a minute to smile, and

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of the caravan called the "Mule Train" was arrested in New Jersey in April, 1968, with drugs and a stolen gun in his car. Several members of the southern caravan were seen with pistols in their possession. In connection with the Midwest Caravan, large quantities of food, clothing, and blankets were found abandoned on buses used by the caravan. Campaign officials were not interested in having this material returned as they said it was all donated and they could get more on the way.

Violence

On May 20, at Resurrection City, a news cameraman was threatened for failing to enter a tent as instructed. A marshal, one of the city's own security force, told the newsman: "If you don't get in that tent, I'll cut you with my razor." Later, Jesse Jackson, a campaign official, said the marshal was only kidding and didn't know the incident was being recorded.

The next day a resident of Resurrection City was arrested for practicing a "quick draw" with a pistol loaded with "dum-dum" bullets. During a rock-and-roll music entertainment, six fights erupted. A marshal requested police assistance in removing armed men from Resurrection City in another incident, but a Reverend Young, a campaign official, said the marshals would handle this and denied entry to the city to the police.

There have been fights during meals which caused officials to call a town meeting to discuss the fights and the marshals had to disarm a man terrorizing other residents with a meat cleaver. The "Commandos," a group under the leadership of Father James Groppi, have clubs, six or seven butcher knives, and two guns.

Residents of Resurrection City have thrown rocks at passing automobiles, damaging four cars and injuring one woman. Two newspaper reporters were beaten by teen-age residents of the city and their walkie-talkie radio taken. To date, it has not been returned. It was valued at over $500. A drunk lunged at Senator Edward Muskie of Maine during the Senator's visit to the city.

On June 9, a Negro man stole a camera during the afternoon and ran into Resurrection City. Marshals refused to allow police

into the city and no arrest was made. Members of a youth gang from Chicago at the city have been stealing goods there and selling the items they steal. At least four firebombs have been made at Resurrection City for use against factions of residents of the city.

Leadership

Resurrection City participants have repeatedly expressed objections to leaders of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, which organized the Poor People's Campaign, staying at the Pitts Motor Hotel in Washington, D. C., instead of at Resurrection City. Participants are also upset over heavy drinking and the presence of white and black females in the rooms of campaign leaders. Reverend Ralph D. Abernathy had obscenities shouted at him when he visited the tent city on June 7 because of the fact that he was residing at the Pitts Motor Hotel rather than in Resurrection City with his followers and because of rumors circulated to the effect that Resurrection City residents had caught him in bed with a white female.

Racial Friction

There has been friction between the Mexican-American contingent of the Poor People's Campaign and campaign Negro leaders. The Mexican-American contingent has charged racial discrimination. On June 7, Reverend Abernathy told Reies Lopez Tijerina, leader of the Mexican-Americans, to either move into Resurrection City, which the Mexican-Americans have so far refused to do, or leave town.

While a Negro newspaper reporter was getting a story in Resurrection City, a white reporter nearby was told to leave by a Negro resident. The white reporter's notebook was taken, the pages with writing on them torn out, and the notebook thrown in the mud.

Washington, D. C.

Violence has not been confined to Resurrection City itself. Three campaign participants (two coming with a caravan)

are being held for shooting and killing two U. S. Marine officers and wounding two other persons. These three were to move into Resurrection City the night of the murder.

Members of another teen-age gang called the "Invaders" who are with the campaign from Memphis, Tennessee, invaded the Ballou High School in Washington and roamed the halls setting off firecrackers and turning in two false fire alarms. A campaign participant was arrested for refusing to pay for drinks in a Washington restaurant and pulling a knife on the waitress.

During a demonstration at the Supreme Court Building, six campaigners threw rocks and broke five windows. Three campaigners were arrested for lowering the flag to half mast and five others were later arrested for obscene language.

At the Department of Justice, campaigners met with Attorney General Ramsey Clark and one said, "We ain't got no money, man, but we got matches, man. Mr. Ramsey Clark, you better tell the police to get their guns ready. For every one of us you kill in Resurrection City, ten cities are going to burn."

This was after Andrew Young reportedly said over the public address system in Resurrection City, "We cannot survive in America unless we put an end to the present government system that will inevitably lead to our destruction."

Immoral Activity

In May, 1968, a Negro female was raped in Resurrection City. On June 1 two carloads of white females came to the city at 2 a.m. to "volunteer their services." Negro females in the city are disturbed at Negro males for sleeping with Negro females during the day and then going to hotels with white females at night. Reverend James Bevel, a campaign official, replied to the complaints with derogatory remarks about black women. He refused to apologize and was threatened by male residents. An organization has been started in Resurrection City by Negro females to try to stop Negro male residents from sleeping with white females.

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A female marshal was raped at Resurrection City by three or four men and two days later two Negro female visitors were raped there. The boyfriend of one victim went to the city to confront the rapists and was met by campaign official Hosea Williams and marshals. The boyfriend was told to leave or he would be beaten.

A white female, approximately 22 years old, came to the fence at the city at night and said she wanted to do whatever she could to support the campaign. One Negro male suggested she enter the camp and engage in sexual relations with the participants. She entered Resurrection City, stayed two hours, and engaged in sexual relations with six or seven Negro men.

Current Situation

Between 800 and 900 participants remain at Resurrection City, which was built to hold 3,000 people. The permit to occupy the park originally scheduled to expire June 16, 1968, has been extended to June 23, 1968. Most of the legitimate poor people have left and in the main only "black nationalists" remain. Reverend Abernathy said on June 10 that evicting residents of Resurrection City when the permit expires would "infuriate those who would like to resort to violence" and would "only disturb those in cities around the country to the point where violence would break out."

The Poor People's Campaign has scheduled a mass demonstration, called "Solidarity Day" for June 19. This demonstration is to include sympathizers from all over the country besides residents of Resurrection City.

The Mexican-American contingent still refuses to move into Resurrection City and the city is still working on its housing and sanitary facilities. A Negro plumber who volunteered to lay pipe there was quite critical over the refusal of residents of the city to assist him in his work.

Hosea Williams spent the night of June 16, 1968, at the Williard Hotel, Washington, D. C., in a room occupied by a white female, age 20-22, who claimed to be a secretary of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

A white female who had resided at Resurrection City advised that one of the Poor People's Campaign marshals had pointed to Lincoln's statue in the Lincoln Memorial and said to her, "See that bastard? We're going to paint his skin black and make him look like a nigger." This individual also made an obscene reference to the Washington Monument. This female stated that several attempts were made by Negroes to have intercourse with her both voluntarily and forceably.

Another individual described the leadership of the Poor People's Campaign as chaotic and described the campaign as "Sodom and Gomorrah all over again."

An individual reported that a gang of young Negro youths from Chicago called the Rangers was stealing goods at Resurrection City and selling the items. This gang prefers white women and uses its authority to procure them.

Over $60,000 have been spent by the Poor People's Campaign staff residing at the Pitts Motor Hotel, Washington, D. C.; $7,000 reportedly were paid to Hosea Williams to cover cash and property stolen from him at Resurrection City. Campaign officials also have reportedly been cheating on travel vouchers.

Ralph Abernathy and his family have been living recently at the Howard Johnson Motor Hotel in Washington, D. C., without the knowledge of campaign participants.